




City of Pensacola

*America's First Settlement
Established 1559*

*Office of
City Attorney*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Media Contacts of City Clerk's Office

FROM: City Attorney William (Rusty) Wells 

DATE: August 24, 2010

RE: Apology to the Citizens of the City of Pensacola

As a great many of you are aware, I have recently been the subject of notoriety when email communications between me and others were inadvertently released in response to a public records request. One email in particular was made during a City Council business meeting and it reflected adversely upon the City Council, and it contained crude and juvenile language not fitting for the occasion at hand. The comments that I made and the widespread publicity they have received have caused grave embarrassment to me and have brought disrepute to the City itself.

As City Attorney, it is my responsibility to help train city employees and advise city officials to avoid and refrain from the very kind of conduct that I myself have engaged in. It is not an excuse to say that I did not intend the consequences to occur, and in fact there is really no excuse for my action. To all of the citizens and taxpayers of the City of Pensacola, I offer my most sincere apology.

At the City Council meeting last week, several citizens spoke sincerely and passionately about their disappointment in me upon hearing a public reading of the words that I wrote to my coworker. I must confess that I agree entirely with the sentiments expressed by the speakers – no one should expose children to it and it is completely out of place during a business meeting of the governmental body. And for that reason as well, I again extend to all of the citizens of the City my apology for my embarrassing and unprofessional conduct.